

Zelazny, Frank

DRAWINGS

Sculptors-Z
Custardettes)

ML 2009.085.02568

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Frank Zelezny

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



STATUE OF Abraham Lincoln, nation's 16th President, siandered by the crude writings of a new breed of students as the face of Harvard University, Cambridge, one block away from the scene of the brutal murder of Jane Britton, is changing. An old grad of a few years ago would probably not recognize his alma mater if he returned today. It is a stark change for the oldest of the Ivy League schools long expressive of conservative thinking.

Honest Abe Takes On New Look

6/19/74 Removed Mr. Rockwood from Boy Scout Award
mailing list as requested. J.N.

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

Gentlemen;

June 14, 1974

I am no longer in a position
in Scouting where I can use
your yearly announcement of
the Lincoln statue pilgrimage.

I've enjoyed seeing them,
and showing them to others, but
now the time has come for
you to remove my name from
your list.

Enclosed is clipping (old)
concerning a Lincoln statue in Cambridge,
Mass., which I meant to send you
long ago. I don't think this one is
on your list. Very truly yours, A. P. Rockwood

2251

June 20, 1974

Mr. A. P. Rockwood
29 Emerson Place
Needham, Massachusetts 02192

Dear Mr. Rockwood:

Could I trouble you for some information concerning the Lincoln statue at Harvard, a picture of which you sent us on June 14? Since we do not have any record of this statue, we would like to know who did it (St. Gaudens ?), its dimensions, when it was done, the material of which it was made, and its location. If you can supply any of this information or know someone else who can, we would be very grateful for the help.

Yours truly,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jn

A. P. Rockwood
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

July 2nd, 74

Dear Mr. Greeley,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I am sending Harvard University, in response to your letter of June 20th -

I feel this way you'll get the information first hand.

I'm just glad I could bring this "new" statue to your attention -

Very Truly Yours -
Abraham P. Rockwood

Enc.

First Department
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

June 25, 1974
p.1

Gentlemen:

While a Cubmaster in Needham, I learned that the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., of Fort Wayne, Indiana encourage the Boy Scouts to visit the nearest Lincoln statue on Lincoln's Birthday.

They do this by providing a certificate showing one of the 83 heroic statues they know of to each Scout who participates in the visit. These are sent to the Scoutmaster or Cubmaster who reports how many boys went.

When I joined their mailing lists, I received a copy of their publication Lincoln Lore, dated Feb., 1962 which listed 81 Lincoln statues, gave their location, and listed the sculptor and date of dedication. At that time, the Massachusetts statue was the Emancipation one on Park Square, Boston.

About 1968, I believe, the Boston Record-American showed a picture of a large Lincoln statue located at Harvard College.

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

2.

At the time, I checked their list, and did not find your statue listed.

At the time, I meant to send them the picture, but never did. Meanwhile, each year they send me a copy of the new yearly certificate, and each time I plan to write about you.

This year, with the last of my sons leaving Scotland, I no longer will be in a position to further this pilgrimage, so wrote them to remove my name from the list. This time I did remember to send them the old newspaper picture of your statue, which could become #84 on their list.

They responded immediately, as you can see by the enclosed copy of their letter, and show great interest in this "find". So much so, that I'm sorry I didn't contact them earlier.

Anyways, to simplify things, I wonder if you could send them the information direct, with a copy to me, since I'll be interested in both the

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

information given, and to know you followed
through for me.

Possibly they could send you the Feb '62
leaflet listing 81 statues, and the last monographed
list of 83. The '62 was printed on green paper, so didn't
copy too well.

In case they don't, I have enclosed a good
copy of my letter, as well as my '66 certificate,
so you can see how tastefully the program
has been handled. At no time, have I been
urged to acquire any of these insurance or asked to
urge others to.

Thanks in Advance

Abraham P. Rockwood

Encl. - '66 Certificate

Zero copy of Feb. 62 Lincoln Lou

Zero copy of statue list ending with #83, located in
Juarez, Mexico.

Copy of Lincoln letter of June 20, about your statue.

C. C. Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

Re. Statue of Lincoln
Harvard Univ.

Klear Gov. Freely.

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

July 17 '74

This is in reply to your letter of June 20th
Concerning the old clipping I sent you on June 14th

On June 25th, I sent a letter to the
Art Department at Harvard asking that they
contact you about this statue - And I mailed
you a copy so you'd know I didn't give
up trying to further your cause.

However, as you'll see below, I may have
been misled, and misled myself by that clipping.

Anyway, my letter worked through
the Art Department and finally reached the desk
of Mrs. Louise Ambler, at the Fogg Museum, Harvard,
who is "in charge" of all of the "out side" works
of art on the campus.

Because she was most interested in
your program, and last, she called me at work,
rather than writing.

To her knowledge there is no "heroic"
Lincoln Statue on the campus. However, they do
have 3 preliminary studies, two by French, and
one by St. Gaudens, that came to the University
through a bequest in '43.

A. P. ROCKWOOD
29 EMERSON PLACE
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192

She said then St. Gaudens piece is 40" high, and shows Lincoln with a chair. She believes this was the preliminary study which was used for the statue in Chicago. She said it is on display near a grating or fence, and a photograph of it might appear to be a full size piece, out doors.

Then the French studies are models for a standing Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the seated Lincoln on the N.C. Lincoln Memorial.

She did say that although none of these are on public display, small groups like a Cub Scout or Scout Patrol, etc, could see them by request.

As I said before, she was most interested in your listing, and sorry she couldn't report my "find" to be a statue to add to your list.

Meanwhile, I don't know if the clipping I sent you was dated. My notes only said 1968?, but possibly I'd written more on the clipping before I mailed it. Also, I wonder if knowing they feel the picture might be a study, you could tell by the clipping if you think the picture is of a model? If there is a better date, and you let me know, I'll try to learn more from the paper itself. Meanwhile, I'm afraid I may have misled you.

Very truly yours - Abraham P. Rockwood

*for
statutes
of freedom*

July 24, 1974

Mr. A. P. Rockwood
29 Emerson Place
Needham, Massachusetts 02192

Dear Mr. Rockwood:

I am acknowledging your letter of July 17, 1974 as Dr. Neely is at the present time out of the office until the first part of August.

The clipping you sent illustrating the statue at Harvard was from Record American, Boston and dated Friday, January 17, 1969. This illustration was of a standing Lincoln statue (no chair) and appears to be a model from the "heroic" standing Lincoln statue in Lincoln, Nebraska of which Frank Zelezny was the sculptor.

The illustration of the statue as used in the Record American did reflect an image of an "heroic" size statue, which has been learned, thru your exertions, to be an artifical image as far as an "heroic" Lincoln statue.

On behalf of Dr. Neely, I wish to thank both you and Mrs. Louise Ambler for all your efforts generated forth in enabling us to keep our "heroic" Lincoln statue listing on an up to date basis.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Mary Jane Hubler
Assistant to Dr. Neely

MJH/jn

MCCARTHY

JOURNAL OF THE

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Zelazny, Frank

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